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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fifth session
22 February–4 March 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
      (ii) Review theme: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2011/1/Add.1.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women, at the 1st meeting of its fifty-fourth session, on 13 March 2009, elected, by acclamation, Armen Martirosyan (Armenia) as Chair, and Leysa Sow (Senegal), Roberto Storaci (Italy) and Takashi Ashiki (Japan) as Vice-Chairs of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission. On 14 October 2009, at the second meeting of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, and following the resignation of Armen Martirosyan, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Garen Nazarian (Armenia) as Chair for the remainder of the fifty-fourth and for the fifty-fifth session. The Commission also elected Julio Peralta (Paraguay) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions.

Following the resignation of Roberto Storaci (Italy), Julio Peralta (Paraguay) and Takashi Ashiki (Japan), the Commission, at the first meeting of its fifty-fifth session on 12 March 2010, elected by acclamation Filippo Cinti (Italy) and Maria Luz Melon (Argentina) as Vice-Chairs for the fifty-fifth session.[1]

At its first meeting, on 22 February 2011, the Commission will be called upon to elect Tetsuya Kimura (Japan) who has been nominated by the Asian Group of States, as Vice-Chair, and to designate one of the Vice-Chairs to act also as Rapporteur of the Commission.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission, at its fifty-fourth session, appointed five members to the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, to serve for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2010/233.

Preparations for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 and 2009/15. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with all interested delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

[1] The list of members of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session is contained in the annex to the present document.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to five minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

By its resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence the General Assembly established, as a composite entity, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). UN Women consolidates the existing mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, as well as those of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; it functions as a secretariat and also carries out operational activities at the country level.

In the same resolution, it was also decided that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women would constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and would provide normative policy guidance to the new entity UN Women (see para. 57 (a)); and that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of UN Women would constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities and would provide operational policy guidance to UN Women (see para. 57 (b)). In paragraph 67, the Assembly emphasized the need to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as the need for coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of the work of UN Women and in that regard requested:

(a) The Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN Women to work closely together to provide coherent guidance and direction in their respective areas;

(b) The Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010 to establish appropriate and concrete linkages between the Commission and the Executive Board to ensure consistency between the overall policy guidance set by the Commission and the operational strategies and operational activities approved by the Executive Board;

(c) The head of UN Women to submit to the Commission an annual report on the normative aspects of the work of UN Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Documentation

Report by the Executive Director of UN Women to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2011/2)

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council decided that the annual interactive high-level round table would focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme.

The high-level round table at the fifty-fifth session will focus on "access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

Documentation

Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women: discussion guide on the high-level round table on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/4)

Priority theme

In its resolution 2009/15, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed future organization and methods of work. Accordingly, at its fifty-fifth session, the Commission will consider the theme "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

Review theme

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-first session on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on access and participation of women and girls

in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/5).

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

Following consultation, the Bureau decided that the Commission would hold an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue (to be determined).

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2010/6 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

In its resolution 54/2, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, and with a view to assessing the impact on the well-being of women and the girl child.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In accordance with resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women, resolution 1997/43 of the Commission on Human Rights and resolution 6/30 of the Human Rights Council, the Commission on the Status of Women will have before it

a report on the joint workplan of UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women

In its resolution 54/5, the Commission decided to hold an expert panel discussion on the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women, including oral briefings by and an interactive discussion with the relevant United Nations funds, programmes, agencies and offices, including the World Bank, as well as representatives of the private sector and civil society, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for information. The report of the Committee on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (A/65/38) will be before the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the Committee's forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions will also be before the Commission.

Programme matters

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of UN Women for the period 2012-2013 (pending action by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2011/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2011/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/16/33-E/CN.6/2011/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/16/34-E/CN.6/2011/9)

Documents for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (A/65/38)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of UN Women for the period 2012-2013 (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.2)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2011/SW/COMM.LIST/45/R and Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27, functional commissions are invited to provide concise, action-oriented input to the Council's annual high-level segment. At its 2011 annual ministerial review, the Council will consider the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat concerning the Commission's input to the 2011 annual ministerial review.

Documentation

Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2011/10)

Note by the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (E/CN.6/2011/11)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty sixth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-fifth session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session (2011)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Argentina	2014
Armenia	2011
Azerbaijan	2011
Bangladesh	2014
Belarus	2013
Belgium	2011
Cambodia	2011
Central African Republic	2014
China	2012
Colombia	2013
Comoros	2014
Cuba	2012
Dominican Republic	2012
El Salvador	2014
Eritrea	2012
Gabon	2011
Gambia	2014
Germany	2013
Guinea	2013
Haiti	2012
India	2012
Iraq	2013
Israel	2013
Italy	2013
Japan	2013

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2014
Malaysia	2014
Mauritania	2013
Mongolia	2014
Namibia	2011
Nicaragua	2013
Niger	2011
Pakistan	2011
Paraguay	2011
Philippines	2014
Republic of Korea	2014
Russian Federation	2012
Rwanda	2013
Senegal	2012
Spain	2011
Swaziland	2014
Sweden	2012
Turkey	2011
United States of America	2012
Uruguay	2014